A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B41J2/21 B41J11/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (dassification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B41J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X 1,2,8, 13,14,19 EP 0 958 921 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 24 November 1999 (1999-11-24) page 3, line 30 - line 43; figure 1 X EP 1 057 646 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 1,2,8, 6 December 2000 (2000-12-06) 13,14,19 column 4, line 9 - line 46; figures 1-3 X US 2002/067402 A1 (NISHITA NOBUHIRO) 1,2,13, 6 June 2002 (2002-06-06) 14,19 abstract EP 0 870 615 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP) 14 October 1998 (1998-10-14) 1,2,8, A 13,14,19 column 10, line 21 -column 11, line 9; figures 1,4 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: \*T\* later document published after the International filling date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another dtation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 7 November 2003 14/11/2003 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2

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